

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Amendments to the Claims:

This claim listing will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claim Listing:

Claims 1-15 (Canceled).

16. (Currently Amended) A method for increasing the immunostimulatory effect of a CpG-containing oligonucleotide, the method comprising introducing into the oligonucleotide a 3' substituted nucleoside at a position selected from the group consisting of 3rd nucleoside 5' to the CpG dinucleotide, 4th nucleoside 5' to the CpG dinucleotide, 5th nucleoside 5' to the CpG dinucleotide, 6th nucleoside 5' to the CpG dinucleotide, 2nd nucleoside 3' to the CpG dinucleotide, 3rd nucleoside 3' to the CpG dinucleotide, 4th nucleoside 3' to the CpG dinucleotide, 5th nucleoside 3' to the CpG dinucleotide, 6th nucleoside 3' to the CpG dinucleotide, ~~7th nucleoside 3' to the CpG dinucleotide, 8th nucleoside 3' to the CpG dinucleotide, 9th nucleoside 3' to the CpG dinucleotide, 10th nucleoside 3' to the CpG dinucleotide,~~ and combinations thereof.
17. (Original) The method according to claim 16, wherein the oligonucleotide is not an antisense oligonucleotide.
18. (Currently Amended) A CpG-containing oligonucleotide having increased immunostimulatory effects, the oligonucleotide comprising a 3' substituted nucleoside at a position selected from the group consisting of 3rd nucleoside 5' to the CpG dinucleotide, 4th nucleoside 5' to the CpG dinucleotide, 5th nucleoside 5' to the CpG dinucleotide, 6th nucleoside 5' to the CpG dinucleotide, 2nd nucleoside 3' to the CpG dinucleotide, 3rd nucleoside 3' to the CpG dinucleotide, 4th nucleoside 3' to the CpG dinucleotide, 5th nucleoside 3' to the CpG dinucleotide, 6th nucleoside 3' to the CpG dinucleotide, ~~7th nucleoside 3' to the CpG dinucleotide, 8th nucleoside 3' to the CpG dinucleotide, 9th nucleoside 3' to the CpG dinucleotide, 10th nucleoside 3' to the CpG dinucleotide,~~ and combinations thereof.
19. (Original) The oligonucleotide according to claim 18, wherein the oligonucleotide is not an antisense oligonucleotide.
20. (Original) The oligonucleotide according to claim 18, wherein the oligonucleotide is from about 6 to about 50 nucleotides in length.
21. (Original) The oligonucleotide according to claim 18, wherein the oligonucleotide further comprises modified internucleotide linkages or modified sugars to improve stability.
22. (Currently Amended) A method for inducing an immune response in a mammal, the method comprising administering to the mammal an oligonucleotide comprising a 3' substituted nucleoside at a position selected from the group consisting of 3rd nucleoside 5' to the CpG dinucleotide, 4th nucleoside 5' to the CpG dinucleotide, 5th nucleoside 5'

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to the CpG dinucleotide, 6th nucleoside 5' to the CpG dinucleotide, 2nd nucleoside 3' to the CpG dinucleotide, 3rd nucleoside 3' to the CpG dinucleotide, 4th nucleoside 3' to the CpG dinucleotide, 5th nucleoside 3' to the CpG dinucleotide, 6th nucleoside 3' to the CpG dinucleotide, ~~7th nucleoside 3' to the CpG dinucleotide, 8th nucleoside 3' to the CpG dinucleotide, 9th nucleoside 3' to the CpG dinucleotide, 10th nucleoside 3' to the CpG dinucleotide,~~ and combinations thereof.

23. (Original) The method according to claim 22, wherein the oligonucleotide is not an antisense oligonucleotide.

Claims 24-60 (Canceled).